

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 11465 260656Z

ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2817

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EA/PHL FOR SARTORIUS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, ETRD, RP

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR U.S. CUSTOMS CLEARANCE OF GOLD COINS AND
ARTIFACTS BELONGING TO BANK OF REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA

1. DR. ANGELITA G. LEGARDA, NUMISMATIC CONSULTANT AT THE PHILIPPINES CENTRAL BANK MONEY MUSEUM (AND ALSO WIFE OF DEPUTY CENTRAL BANK GOVERNOR BENITO LEGARDA), HAS WRITTEN TO EMBASSY FOR ASSISTANCE WITH U.S. CUSTOMS IN CLEARING COLUMBIAN GOLD COINS AND ARTIFACTS BEING RETURNED TO THE BANK OF THE REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA.

2. LAST YEAR THE BANK OF THE REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA LOANED THE CENTRAL BANK MONEY MUSEUM AN EXHIBIT OF GOLD COINS AND ARTIFACTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE IMF/IBRD ANNUAL MEETING HELD THEN IN MANILA. THE ITEMS WERE DELIVERED TO MANILA BY A COURIER IN A COLUMBIAN DIPLOMATIC POUCH AND HAVE BEEN AT THE MUSEUM ON EXHIBIT SINCE THEN. THE ITEMS CONSIST OF FIFTEEN GOLD COINS WORTH \$99,975 AND TWENTY-FIVE ARTIFACTS VALUED AT A TOTAL OF \$108,000.

3. MRS. LEGARDA WILL BE REPRESENTING THE CENTRAL BANK'S MONEY MUSEUM AT THE 86TH CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA THIS YEAR. IN
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THE MEANTIME THE CENTRAL BANK HAS RECEIVED A CABLE FROM THE BANK OF THE REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA REQUESTING THE RETURN OF THEIR ARTICLES AND STATING IT WAS WILLING TO HAVE THEM DELIVERED TO THE COLOMBIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, D.C. CENTRAL BANK GOVERNOR LICAROS HAS THEREFORE DECIDED THAT MRS. LEGARDA COULD ACCOMPLISH THIS ERRAND ON THE SAME TRIP, PROCEEDING TO WASHINGTON FIRST TO RETURN THE COLOMBIAN

ARTIFACTS TO THE COLOMBIA EMBASSY THERE BEFORE GOING ON TO THE ANA CONVENTION IN ATLANTA. MRS. LEGARDA PLANS TO ARRIVE IN NEW YORK AUGUST 15 AT 1745 HOURS ON A PANAM FLIGHT DIRECT FROM TOKYO, AND WILL, OF COURSE, BE GOING THROUGH U. S. CUSTOMS IN NEW YORK. SHE HAS REQUESTED EMBASSY'S ASSISTANCE IN FACILITATING THE ENTRANCE OF THE COLOMBIAN ARTIFACTS SHE WILL BE CARRYING. SHE WISHED TO CLEAR THIS MATTER IN ADVANCE WITH THE EMBASSY AND WE UNDERTOOK IN TURN TO RELAY HER REQUEST TO U.S. CUSTOMS VIA THE DEPARTMENT.

4. MRS. LEGARD DOES NOT YET KNOW WHETHER SHE WILL BE TRAVELING WITH AN OFFICIAL PASSPORT OR HER REGULAR PASSPORT. SHE HAS PROVIDED EMBASSY A LIST OF THE ITEMS WHICH SHE WILL HANDCARRY AND A ZEROX COPY OF THE CENTRAL BANK MONETARY BOARD'S RESOLUTION REGARDING HER TRIP. WE ARE FORWARDING HER LETTER, THE LIST AND THE RESOLUTION TO EA/PHL/SARTORIUS BY AIR POUCH.

5. PLEASE INFORM EMBASSY ASAP WHETHER MRS. LEGARDA CAN COUNT ON EXPEDITIOUS CLEARANCE THROUGH U.S. CUSTOMS OR ALTERNATIVELY WHAT FURTHER INFORMATION MIGHT BE NEEDED BY U.S. CUSTOMS AND WHAT ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS SHE MIGHT HAVE TO MEET.

6. DECONTROL AT DISCRETION OF RECIPIENT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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